

September 16, 2013

REFUGEE COORDINATOR LETTER NO. 13-07

TO: COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
COUNTY REFUGEE COORDINATORS
COUNTY FISCAL OFFICERS

SUBJECT: FINAL FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2013 REFUGEE SOCIAL SERVICES
ALLOCATIONS

REFERENCE: CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE NO. 93.566

This letter provides counties with final allocations for the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2013 Refugee Social Services (RSS) grant. Counties are authorized to provide services with this grant beginning October 1, 2013. The Notice of FFY 2013 RSS Formula Awards to States was released in the Federal Register on August 21, 2013, and may be accessed on the Funding page of the Refugee Programs Bureau's (RPB) web site at <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/refugeeprogram/>.

Federal Allocation Methodology

The state's total RSS allocation for FFY 2013 is \$7,684,372, which represents \$6,612,112 for the state refugee program, and \$1,072,260 for the Wilson/Fish Alternative Project. The total RSS amount is a decrease of \$90,915 from last year's final allocation. The federal Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) determined each state's total allocation based on its refugee arrivals in proportion to total arrivals nationwide (adjusted for secondary migration) for the two-year period of October 1, 2010, through September 30, 2012. Refugee arrivals include refugees, Amerasians, asylees, Cuban and Haitian entrants, Cuban medical professionals/parolees, Havana parolees, federally-certified trafficking victims, and Iraqi and Afghan special immigrants.

The ORR's Final Notice explains the basis for the estimate of each state's arrivals, and the ORR arrival data for California is consistent with RPB data. In January 2013, ORR

requested that states submit data on asylees who were granted asylum and received RSS services between October 1, 2010, and September 30, 2012. The RPB submitted asylee data which was provided by the counties and the Wilson/Fish Alternative Project in San Diego. The ORR matched asylee data from states with information in federal databases, then included the number of federally-verified asylees in the formula to determine the states' final RSS allocations.

Wilson/Fish Alternative Project

The Wilson/Fish Alternative Project is operated in San Diego County by Catholic Charities under direct contract with the ORR. The amount of \$1,072,260 for this project for FFY 2013 was determined by ORR using the number of arrivals to San Diego County over the last two years who were RCA-type adults.

State Allocation Methodology

The state's adjusted RSS allocation is \$6,612,112. After setting aside 15 percent of the state's adjusted allocation for state administrative costs, the remaining \$5,620,295 will be allocated for social services and administrative costs to counties in accordance with Welfare and Institutions Code Section 13276.

RSS funds are allocated based on the number of refugees on aid in each eligible county, weighted according to the length of time that the refugees are in the United States (U.S.), as follows:

- 1) A weight of 1.50 is applied to the number of refugees who have been in the U.S. one year or less.
- 2) A weight of 1.25 is applied to the number of refugees who have been in the U.S. two years or less, but more than one year.
- 3) A weight of 1.00 is applied to the number of refugees who have been in the U.S. five years or less, but more than two years.

Data used in the allocation process was obtained from the most recent Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS) Report, dated July 31, 2013. FFY 2013 final allocations are shown in the enclosed spreadsheet.

Eligible Counties

Counties are eligible to receive RSS funds if they have received at least 400 refugee arrivals during the period of October 1, 2007, through September 30, 2012. Based on that threshold, eight counties are eligible for FFY 2013 RSS funds: Alameda, Los Angeles, Orange, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, Santa Clara, and Stanislaus.

Debarment and Suspension Requirements

Federal regulations require that individuals be prohibited from receiving federal financial and non-financial assistance and benefits if they have been debarred or suspended, pursuant to 45 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 76. Reasons for debarment/suspension may include a conviction for committing fraud or any other crime or action that shows a lack of business integrity (see 45 CFR Part 76.305 for specific debarment/suspension criteria). The debarment/suspension requirements extend to an organization if a debarred/suspended individual is an officer, director, owner, or partner, or if the individual has management or supervisory responsibility within the organization.

Counties are required to comply with the debarment and suspension provisions in 45 CFR Part 76 as a condition of receiving RSS funding. When arranging RSS-funded services through a subgrant or subcontract, counties must verify that the subgrantee or subcontractor is not excluded or disqualified from participation in federal assistance programs by:

- 1) Checking the federal General Services Administration's Excluded Parties List System, found at <http://www.sam.gov>, which has the most current information about persons who have been excluded or disqualified for participation in federal programs; and/or
- 2) Adding a clause to the contract/agreement in which the contractor agrees to certify that he/she and his/her principals are not debarred or suspended from federal financial assistance programs and services. Example: *"For federally funded agreements in the amount of \$25,000 or more, the Contractor certifies that he/she and his/her principals are not debarred or suspended from federal financial assistance programs and activities."*

Federal Funding Terms and Conditions

All recipients and sub-recipients of federal funding, including RSS funding, are required to adhere to specific terms and conditions. For information regarding these terms and conditions and requirements, please visit ORR's web site at:

- General Terms and Conditions:
https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/assets/general_terms_and_conditions_mandatory.pdf
- General Terms and Conditions Addendum (RSS Funding):
https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/assets/refugee_cma_socserv_tag_tc_addendum.pdf

Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Ms. Janet Sandlin, Manager, Funding and Data Unit, (916) 654-4356 or Janet.Sandlin@dss.ca.gov, or Ms. Camille Ancona, Analyst, Funding and Data Unit, at (916) 653-7785 or Camille.Ancona@dss.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

***Original signed by Stan Cagle
on 9/16/13***

STAN CAGLE, Chief
Child Care and Refugee Programs Branch

Enclosure

c: CWDA